

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



555924

(43) International Publication Date
25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/102708 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H01M 8/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/JP2004/006679

(22) International Filing Date: 12 May 2004 (12.05.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2003-136791 15 May 2003 (15.05.2003) JP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.** [JP/JP]; 2, Takara-cho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 2210023 (JP).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MATSUOKA, Naoya** [JP/JP]; 11-706, Residence Nissan Morisaki, 3-15, Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa 2380023 (JP).

(74) Agent: **GOTO, Masaki**; Shoyu-Kaikan, 3-1, Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 1000013 (JP).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

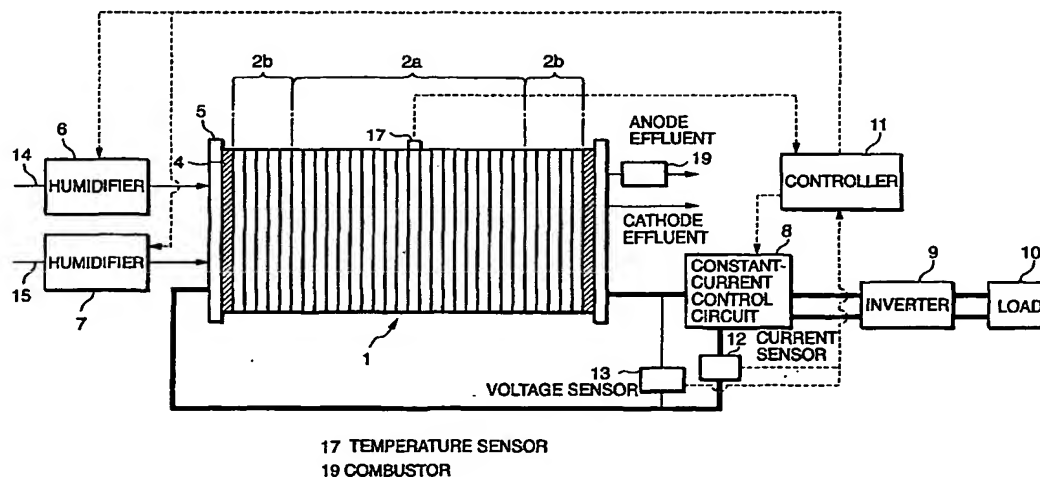
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PREVENTION OF FLOODING OF FUEL CELL STACK



17 TEMPERATURE SENSOR
19 COMBUSTOR

(57) Abstract: A fuel cell stack (1) generates power by an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen in plural stacked fuel cells (2a, 2b). Each fuel cell (2a, 2b) comprises an anode (26a) to which hydrogen is supplied, a cathode (26b) to which air containing oxygen is supplied, and an electrolyte membrane (20) which conducts hydrogen ions from the anode (26a) to the cathode (26b). The fuel cells (2a, 2b) comprise center cells (2a) and end cells (2b). By arranging the moisture absorption capacity of the end cells (2b) to be larger than that of the center cells (2a), flooding in the end cells (2b) which do not easily rise in temperature is prevented, and the low-temperature start-up performance of the fuel cell stack (1) is enhanced.